

**In the Claims:**

1. **(currently amended):** Plane-parallel structures of silicon/silicon oxide, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating plane-parallel structures of  $\text{SiO}_y$  in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, wherein  $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.8$ , or plane-parallel structures of silicon/silicon oxide, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating plane-parallel structures of  $\text{SiO}_x$  in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, wherein  $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$ , ~~, especially 0.05 ≤ x ≤ 0.50, very especially 0.10 ≤ x ≤ 0.30.~~
2. **(currently amended):** A plane-parallel pigment, comprising a silicon/silicon oxide layer, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, wherein  $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.8$ , or a plane-parallel pigment, comprising a silicon/silicon oxide layer, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating plane-parallel structures of  $\text{SiO}_x$  in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, wherein  $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$ , ~~, especially 0.05 ≤ x ≤ 0.50, very especially 0.10 ≤ x ≤ 0.30.~~
3. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein the silicon/silicon oxide layer~~[[;]]~~, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, forms the core of the pigment, wherein  $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.8$ .
4. **(original):** A pigment according to claim 3, comprising a further layer of a dielectric material having a "high" refractive index.
5. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to claim 4, wherein the dielectric material is selected from the group consisting of silicon carbide ( $\text{SiC}$ ), zinc sulfide ( $\text{ZnS}$ ), zinc oxide ( $\text{ZnO}$ ), zirconium oxide ( $\text{ZrO}_2$ ), titanium dioxide ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ), carbon, indium oxide ( $\text{In}_2\text{O}_3$ ), indium tin oxide (ITO), tantalum pentoxide ( $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ ), cerium oxide ( $\text{CeO}_2$ ), yttrium oxide ( $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$ ), europium oxide ( $\text{Eu}_2\text{O}_3$ ), iron oxides such as iron(II)/iron(III) oxide ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) and iron(III) oxide ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ), hafnium nitride ( $\text{HfN}$ ), hafnium carbide ( $\text{HfC}$ ), hafnium oxide ( $\text{HfO}_2$ ), lanthanum oxide ( $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ ), magnesium oxide ( $\text{MgO}$ ), neodymium oxide ( $\text{Nd}_2\text{O}_3$ ), praseodymium oxide ( $\text{Pr}_6\text{O}_{11}$ ), samarium oxide ( $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3$ ), antimony trioxide ( $\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_3$ ), silicon monoxides ( $\text{SiO}$ ), selenium trioxide ( $\text{Se}_2\text{O}_3$ ), tin oxide ( $\text{SnO}_2$ ), tungsten trioxide ( $\text{WO}_3$ ) and combinations thereof~~, especially  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,~~

~~Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZnO, or a mixture of these oxides, or an iron titanate, an iron oxide hydrate, a titanium suboxide or a mixture or mixed phase of these compounds.~~

6. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to claim 2 comprising in this order:

- (a) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>y</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C,
- (b) a reflective layer, especially a metal layer, and
- (c) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>y</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, wherein 0.70 ≤ y ≤ 1.8.

7. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein the pigment comprises in this order:

- (a2) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>0.70-0.99</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C,
- (b2) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>1.00-1.80</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, and
- (c2) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>0.70-0.99</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C,

or

the pigment comprises in this order:

- (a3) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>1.00-1.80</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C,
- (b3) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>0.70-0.99</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, and
- (c3) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>1.00-1.80</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C.

8. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein the pigment comprises in this order:

- (a4) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>0.03-0.69</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C,
- (b4) a silicon/silicon oxide layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heating a SiO<sub>1.00-1.8</sub> layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, and

(c4) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{0.03-0.69}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C and optionally further layers,

or

the pigment comprises in this order:

(a5) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{0.03-0.69}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C,

(b5) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{0.70-0.99}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, and

(c5) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{0.03-0.69}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C and optionally further layers,

or

the pigment comprises in this order:

(a6) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{0.70-0.99}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C,

(b6) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{0.03-0.69}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, and

(c6) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{0.70-0.99}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C and optionally further layers,

or

the pigment comprises in this order:

(a7) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{1.00-1.80}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C,

(b7) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{0.03-0.69}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C, and

(c7) a silicon/silicon oxide layer obtainable obtained by heating a  $\text{SiO}_{1.00-1.80}$  layer in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C and optionally further layers.

9. **(currently amended):** A composition comprising a high molecular weight organic material and from 0.01 to 80 % by weight, ~~preferably from 0.1 to 30 % by weight~~, based on the high molecular weight organic material, of a pigment according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 2, to 8.~~
10. **(currently amended):** A cosmetic preparation or formulation comprising from 0.0001 to 90 % by weight of the plane-parallel structures of silicon/silicon oxide according to claim[[s]] 1 or the

~~pigment according to any one of claims 2 to 8 and from 10 to 99.9999 % of a cosmetically suitable carrier material, based on the total weight of the cosmetic preparation or formulation.~~

11. **(currently amended):** Use of a pigment according to any one of claims 2 to 8, in A method for imparting color characterized by the step of adding a pigment according to claim 2 to ink-jet printing materials, for dyeing textiles, for pigmenting surface coatings, printing inks, plastics, cosmetics, glazes for ceramics and glass.
12. **(original):** A method of producing plane-parallel structures of silicon/silicon oxide, comprising the steps:
  - a) vapour-deposition of a separating agent onto a movable carrier to produce a separating agent layer,
  - b) vapour-deposition of an  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer onto the separating agent layer,
  - c) dissolution of the separating agent layer in a solvent,
  - d) separation of the  $\text{SiO}_y$  from the solvent, wherein  $0.70 \leq y \leq 1.8$ , and
  - e) heating the  $\text{SiO}_y$  in an oxygen-free atmosphere to a temperature above  $400^\circ\text{C}$ .
13. **(new):** Plane-parallel structures of silicon/silicon oxide according to claim 1, obtained by heating plane-parallel structures of  $\text{SiO}_x$  in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above  $400^\circ\text{C}$ , wherein  $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.50$ .
14. **(new):** Plane-parallel structures of silicon/silicon oxide according to claim 13, wherein  $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.30$ .
15. **(new):** A plane-parallel pigment according to claim 2, comprising a silicon/silicon oxide layer, obtained by heating plane-parallel structures of  $\text{SiO}_x$  in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above  $400^\circ\text{C}$ , wherein  $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.50$ .
16. **(new):** A plane-parallel pigment according to claim 15, wherein  $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.30$ .
17. **(new):** A composition according to claim 9 comprising from 0.1 to 30 % by weight, based on the high molecular weight organic material, of a pigment according to claim 2.

18. (new): A pigment according to claim 5, wherein the dielectric material is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ , a mixture of those oxides, an iron titanate, an iron oxide hydrate, a titanium suboxide and a mixture or mixed phase of those compounds.